



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Russian River Receives Conservation Innovation Grant

PETALUMA, June 26, 2008—The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has awarded a \$270,000 Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) to the Russian River Property Owners Association (RRPA) to promote conservation and recovery of salmonid fish populations on the Russian River. This is one of 45 NRCS grants in 40 states that will develop and refine conservation technologies.

The RRPA is part of the Sonoma County Salmonid Coalition which was formed in 2005 to restore, protect and enhance habitat and to promote recovery and maintenance of salmonid fish populations. The Coalition membership includes a broad spectrum of local public agencies, private landowners and landowner associations. The NRCS is one of several governmental technical advisors, including National Marine Fisheries Service, the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, CA Dept of Fish and Game, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, University of CA Cooperative Extension and others.

RRPA President Al Cadd said, "The Coalition is committed to the protection of salmonids and the regional water supply. We and our technical advisors believe that by working together cooperatively, we can achieve the greatest conservation outcomes while also keeping agriculture and private industry in business. The way we feel about it is, without healthy fish, there won't be healthy agriculture."

NRCS administers CIG, which is part of their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS provides technical oversight for each project. Grantees provide technical assistance required to successfully complete their projects and provide matching funds toward the grant.

Nationally the CIG targets innovative, on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. Grants go to state and local governments, tribes, non-governmental organizations and individuals. Approved CIG projects address traditional natural resource issues such as water quantity, water quality improvement, livestock nutrient management, grazing lands and forest health, and soil resource management. The projects also address emerging natural resource issues, including agricultural air emissions, energy conservation and market-based approaches to conservation.

For more information about NRCS conservation programs online, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, or visit the nearest USDA Service Center in your area. The Petaluma Service Center phone number is (707) 794-1242. Additional information about CIG, including summaries of approved projects, is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig>. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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